



**Susie Wright using natural gardening methods**

## NATURAL YARD CARE

### *What Made Your Neighbors Switch?*

One hundred and fifty households in Redmond are making the switch to natural lawn and garden care practices after taking part in the Natural Yard Care Neighborhood program. The program, which is co-sponsored by the City and King County, was brought to the Idylwood and Spiritbrook neighborhoods in spring of 2003, and Education Hill this year.

Neighbors met with experts at three evening workshops to learn natural yard care practices that are easy to understand and put into use immediately in their own gardens. Topics included amending soils, selecting the right plants, watering practices, disease and pest control, and lawn care.

Encouraging homeowners to adopt natural yard care practices is important in Redmond to protect the health of people and pets and to reduce toxic pesticide and fertilizer runoff from yards into our groundwater or streams. (Redmond has seven salmon bearing streams!)

A recent survey of neighbors who attended the 2003 workshops demonstrates that homeowners came away from the workshops with the knowledge and confidence to have a healthier and more beautiful lawn and garden:

- 70% were more informed about how much to water and when.
- 54% were more informed about natural lawn care.
- 53% said they were now very informed about how to build healthy soils.

Redmond plans to offer the Natural Yard Care Neighborhood Program again in the spring of 2005, so be on the lookout for announcements in upcoming issues of Focus. In the meantime, if you want more information about natural yard care, check out <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/topics/yard-and-garden/index.htm>.



## SAMMAMISH "RELEAF"

On three Saturdays in October, you can help to plant trees and shrubs along the Sammamish River in Bothell, Woodinville or Redmond. Join community groups, families and volunteers of all ages in making the Sammamish River a better place for people, fish and wildlife.

Wear old clothes and work shoes. Bring work gloves and a shovel (though a limited number of shovels and gloves are available to borrow). Dress for the weather – we work rain or shine! An adult must accompany participants under the age of 16. Participants under 18 must bring a signed liability agreement (call us in advance and we will send you the form). Large groups are encouraged to come, but please call us in advance so we can serve you better.

- **October 2:** Woodinville, 10 am to 2 pm Contact Patrick Tefft at [PatrickT@ci.woodinville.wa.us](mailto:PatrickT@ci.woodinville.wa.us), or 425-489-2700.
- **October 9:** Redmond, 10 am to 2 pm Contact Peter Holte at [pholte@redmond.gov](mailto:pholte@redmond.gov) or 425-556-2822.
- **October 16:** Bothell, 10 am to 2 pm Contact Jon Morrow at [Jon.Morrow@ci.bothell.wa.us](mailto:Jon.Morrow@ci.bothell.wa.us) or 425-486-2768.

## Salmon Spotting Stations

Take a short break from your bike ride, jog or walk along the Sammamish River Trail to marvel at salmon migrating upstream. Search for Chinook, Sockeye, and Coho salmon with the help of interpretive naturalists from Nature Vision. Nature Vision will even lend you a pair of polarized glasses to help you spot fish in the river.

Look for the Salmon Spotting Station along the trail near the 90th Street Bridge on three Saturdays from 10 am to 2 pm on September 25, October 9 and October 23.

For more information contact Peter Holte, Stewardship Coordinator, at 425-556-2822 or [pholte@redmond.gov](mailto:pholte@redmond.gov).

leaves also reduce the amount of oxygen available to fish and other aquatic organisms.

- Leaves and branches should always be placed in yard debris containers for collection, or in a composting bin.

For information about composting or disposal options for large quantities of yard debris, call Redmond's Recycling Program at 425-556-2832.

## PETERS CREEK ENHANCEMENT

This summer, the City completed a project to widen and enhance 2,400 feet of Peters Creek to increase channel capacity, and constructed high benches along the banks to hold storm overflows. These high flow bench areas will also support streambank plants and provide refuge for wildlife.

To improve the water flow and fish passage up the creek, the City also installed a large concrete box culvert under 151st Avenue NE to replace three smaller culverts that are often clogged with silt and debris.

Crews then removed silt from the bottom of the creek bed and replaced it with gravel to support Caddis flies and May flies. The flies are food for Coho salmon and cutthroat trout that use the lower stretch of the creek as a rearing and spawning area.

Along with the in-stream work and culvert replacement, a new water main was extended across Peters Creek. The new

water main will improve reliability of the water system and fire hydrant flow in the area.

Work will continue in the fall to remove non-native weeds along the creek banks and replace them with native trees and shrubs. The new plants will shade and cool the creek and provide improved habitat for other wildlife.

This \$1.6 million project, which is part of a multi-year restoration effort to control erosion and flooding and recreate habitat for fish and wildlife along the creek and its tributaries, was funded through the City's Stormwater Utility Fund. The King Conservation District provided an additional \$92,000 for soil preparation and native plants. The project was facilitated by the generous cooperation of property owners in the project vicinity.

### Current work on Peter's Creek.



*Culvert installed in 1997 enhancements.*

## DON'T CHOKES US WITH LEAVES!

Help to avoid flooded streets and damage to streams by properly disposing of fallen leaves.

- Never sweep piles of leaves into storm drains or onto drainage grates. Storm drains clogged with leaves cannot carry off rainwater. During heavy rains, plugged-up drains can cause streets and roadways to flood.
- All storm drains in Redmond empty directly into streams, rivers, or Lake Sammamish. Leaves and branches that wash down storm drains can dam small streams and clog fish spawning beds. Decomposing

For more information about Peters Creek, contact Roger Dane with the Division of Natural Resources at 425-556-2815 or [rdane@redmond.gov](mailto:rdane@redmond.gov), or Project Engineer Mike Haley at 425-556-2843 or [mhaley@redmond.gov](mailto:mhaley@redmond.gov).

## NO OUTDOOR BURNING

If you are thinking of burning all of the fallen leaves and brush in your yard, think again. Outdoor burning is permanently banned inside the Redmond city limits.

Why? Because smoke from outdoor burning of yard debris is a health threat to you and your neighbors. Smoke from burning yard debris may contain toxic compounds known to cause cancer. Thousands of calls are placed annually to local fire departments by people who are being "smoked out" of their homes by their neighbors.

Smoke from outdoor fires also contributes to air pollution.

### Here are clean ways to dispose of extra yard waste:

- Compost it. For a copy of the brochure, "Composting at Home," contact [nr@redmond.gov](mailto:nr@redmond.gov) or call the Natural Yard and Garden Hotline at 206-633-0224.
- If you have more yard debris than will fit into your cart, place it at curbside in Kraft paper bags or 32-gallon cans. You will be charged \$2.59 for each additional can or bag.
- Take it to private recycling companies for a nominal charge. Check your phone book under "Recycling Services" or visit the King County website at <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/swd/resrecy/composting/yardwaste.shtml>.

## FREE EXPERT INFO!

Fall is a great time for designing and planting your garden. Here are some helpful booklets to get you started – they are free to you. Please request them at [nr@redmond.gov](mailto:nr@redmond.gov), or call the Natural Yard and Garden Hotline 206-633-0224.

- Natural Yard Care
- Natural Pest Weed and Disease Control
- Growing Healthy Soil
- Smart Watering
- Composting at Home
- Choosing the Right Plants for a Beautiful, Trouble-Free Garden

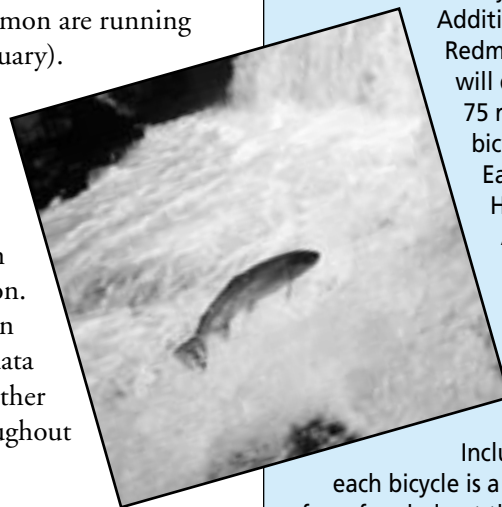
## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

The City of Redmond seeks volunteers to help track salmon populations. Volunteers will search for salmon in local streams for 15 minutes twice a week while salmon are running (October to January).

Volunteers count the number and type of salmon that they spot in a specific location. This information is pooled with data gathered from other volunteers throughout the county.

### Training is provided.

To learn more about the program, visit the Salmon Watchers website: <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/waterres/salmon>, or contact Peter Holte at 425-556-2822 or [pholte@redmond.gov](mailto:pholte@redmond.gov).



## Recycling Bicycles

*Redmond Rotary donates refurbished bikes to local kids*

For many years, Redmond Rotary has recycled and donated bicycles to needy children in Redmond. One of the challenges that Rotary faces each year is finding enough usable bikes to refurbish and distribute. This year, Redmond Rotary has created a partnership with Redmond Recycles, which will serve as a source of bicycles. The first collection date will be October 9, at the new location near Target in Redmond (17700 NE 76th Street).

Representatives of Redmond Rotary will be at the collection site to accept gently-used bicycles. The bicycles will be cleaned and repaired by Rotarians for distribution to local children of need at the Redmond Rotary-sponsored

"Family Fun Night." Additionally, Redmond Rotary will donate about 75 refurbished bicycles to Eastside Housing Association's Avondale Park transitional housing program.

Included with each bicycle is a voucher for a free helmet through the Redmond Community Custom Fit Helmet Program, which is located at Redmond Town Center.

Training sessions run from 7 pm to 9 pm on the following dates at two locations:

Sept. 2, North Bellevue Community/Senior Center, Bellevue  
Sept. 14, Woodinville City Hall, Woodinville